



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JUN 14 2001

Memorandum

To: Administrative Record

From: Donald R. Knowles

Subject: Errata for June 8, 2001 Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion on the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan and Associated Fisheries

Page 6, Section 2.1.1 "HMS FMP Management Measures", Table 1. The Florida Straits closure to longline fishing was not implemented and should be deleted.

Section 6.1 "Integrations and Synthesis of Effects on Loggerhead Turtles" Page 107, line 8, above Table 8, "the Total number of loggerhead turtles that have been estimated" should be corrected to read "the **average** number" as this is an average of the years 1992-1999 to get an annual estimate.

Section 6.1 and 6.2 In the environmental impact analysis for the DeSoto Canyon, Mid Atlantic Bight and South Florida closures, the HMS division of Sustainable Fisheries estimated the increase in turtles expected to be taken in the fishery over the status quo if these closures would be implemented and effort redistribution occurred. This was based on logbook data from 1995-1998. The number on the table represented the total number (a sum) of turtles taken over four years, not an annual estimate. This four-year total (190) was inadvertently assumed to be an annual estimate in the opinion. To correct for this, the estimated 7.13% increase in turtles caught (both species) and the mortality rate in the FSEIS should be used to obtain an annual number of turtles and the for the purposes of the biological opinion. This means that for loggerheads, the increase could be up to 69 (986 x 7%) more turtles caught (10 mortalities) and for leatherbacks, up to 56 (796 x 7%) more turtles caught (4 mortalities).

NMFS has recalculated all the figures in 6.1 and 6.2 and the resulting numbers have been based on an average of 1999 and 2000 data provided in Table 7 and an average of the result of low and high mortality assumptions for beak and mouth hooking. Our use of an average of low and high mortality rates is necessary due to a lack of information in observer records. This shortcoming in data results in our inability to apply criteria to assess post-hooking mortality for turtles hooked superficially versus those hooked in soft tissue or inside their mouth. These criteria are described in the agency's policy memo of February 16, 2001.



These changes are as follows:

Section 6.1 Page 107: Replace with “The increase in turtle interactions predicted by the effort redistribution model would increase the number of loggerhead turtles taken by 69, resulting in 10 mortalities, based on logbook reports and estimates provided in the FSEIS (NMFS 2000a).

Section 6.1 Page 107: “Summary of effects on loggerhead turtles” The first sentence should be changed to read: “It is reasonable to expect that the proposed Atlantic HMS fisheries (longline, shark drift gillnet, and redistribution from closures) could capture as many as 1417 pelagic, immature loggerhead turtles in a year (based on the average of 1999, 2000 data and an average of high and low mortality rates based on type of hooking interaction) and could kill as many as 381 of them.”

Section 6.2 Page 108: “Integration and Synthesis of Effects on Leatherback Turtles”. Replace paragraph 3 to read:

The greatest percentage of these leatherback turtles would be hooked in their flippers, head neck, carapace or plastron (38%) with smaller percentages hooked in beak or mouth (20%) (See Table 9). In addition, the DeSoto Canyon, Florida East Coast and Charleston Bump closures can be expected to increase the number of turtles captured and injured in this fishery a fishing effort redistributes away from the closed areas. Under the combined redistribution of effort model, a 7% increase in leatherback turtle takes could occur. That increase could be as high as 56 turtles annually with 4 mortalities.

Section 6.2 Paragraph 5: first sentence should be changed to read:

It is reasonable to expect that HMS Fisheries combined could capture as many as 875 leatherback turtles annually, killing as many as 183 of them (based on the average of 1999, 2000 data and an average of high and low mortality rates based on type of hooking interaction).

Change to paragraph 7:

“Therefore, killing as many as 183 leatherback sea turtles in HMS fisheries could be contributing to ....”

Changes were also made to the totals expected over 25 years for loggerheads and 9 years for leatherbacks by simply multiplying 25 and 9 respectively times the total number of mortalities and takes in the revisions above.

Middle Page 14: correction to observer coverage requirement– 100% observer coverage in shark...during right whale calving season and 53% during the remainder..

Page 15: paragraph before Section 2.2. Change to: NMFS issued handgear permits....

Page 40: 4<sup>th</sup> full para. 6,544 loggerheads in 1992-1998 should be changed to 6,900.